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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/830,220	04/23/2004	Takuto Yoshida	040894-7026	9332

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EXAMINER

VELEZ, ROBERTO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2829

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/830,220

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Roberto Velez

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/2004, 02/2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks Page 1, filed 2/10/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-8 under ***Yanagisawa et al. (US Pat. 6,953,348)*** have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of ***Howard et al. (US Pat. 6,102,709)***.

Priority

2. Applicant is advised to correct the Foreign Application Date. It seems that the proper Foreign Application Date should be Japan P2003-121573 04/25/2003 instead of Japan P2003-121574.

Drawings

3. Figures 8, 9A, 9B should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by ***Howard et al. (US Pat. 6,102,709)***.

Regarding claim 1, ***Howard et al.*** shows (Figures 1-6) a threaded double sided compressed wire bundle connector, comprising: a conductive block [120, 114], formed with a first face (top side of [114]), a second face (bottom side of [120]) and a through hole (where [50] goes through) connecting the first face (top side of [114]) and the second face (bottom side of [120]); a contact probe [86, 90, 76], comprising: a conductive pipe [90]; and a conductive plunger [76, 86], retractably provided in at a first end of the pipe [90], (Column 4, Lines 20-25) the plunger [76] being to be brought into contact with a device [110, 112] to be inspected; and a first retainer [70], comprising a first insulative member [70] through which the first end of the pipe [90] is retained in the vicinity of the first face (top side of [114]) of the block [114, 120], such that the pipe [90] is coaxially held within the through hole (where [50] goes through) while forming a gap

between an outer periphery of the pipe [90] and an interior wall of the through hole (where [50] goes through).

Regarding claim 2, **Howard et al.** discloses everything as claimed above in claim 1; in addition, **Howard et al.** shows (Figures 1-6) the first insulative member [70] is a substrate provided on the first face (top side of [114]) of the block [114, 120], and formed with a recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1) and a through hole [74] communicated with the recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1); and the first end of the pipe [90] is fitted into the recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1) such that the plunger [76] coaxially extends through the through hole [74] of the substrate [70].

Regarding claim 3, **Howard et al.** discloses everything as claimed above in claim 1; in addition, **Howard et al.** shows (Figures 1-6) a first end portion (top side of [114]) of the through hole [118] of the block [114, 120] is narrowed (as shown in Fig. 3); the first insulative member [70] is a spacer formed with a recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1) and a through hole [74] communicated with the recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1); and the first insulative member [70] is inserted into the first end portion (top side of [114]) of the through hole [118] and the first end of the pipe [90] is fitted into the recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1), such that the plunger [76] coaxially extends through the through hole [74] of the spacer [70] and the through hole [118] of the substrate [70].

Regarding claim 4, **Howard et al.** discloses everything as claimed above in claim 1; in addition, **Howard et al.** shows (Figures 1-6) a conductive plate [114], formed with a first recess [116] and a first through hole [118] communicated with the first recess [116], the plate [114] being provided on the first face of the block [114, 120], wherein: the first insulative member [70] is a spacer [70] formed with a second recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1) and a second through hole [74] communicated with the second recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1); and the first insulative member [70] is inserted into the first recess [116] and the first end of the pipe [90] is fitted into the second recess (where [90] is located in [70] as shown in Fig. 1), such that the plunger [76] coaxially extends through the first through hole [118], the second through hole [74] and the through hole [118] of the block [114, 120].

Regarding claim 5, **Howard et al.** discloses everything as claimed above in claim 1; in addition, **Howard et al.** shows (Figures 1-6) a second retainer [80], further comprising a second insulative member [80] through which a second end of the pipe [90] is retained in the vicinity of the second face (bottom side of [120]) of the block [114, 120], (Column 4, Lines 20-33) wherein the contact probe [76, 90, 86] is electrically connected to a wiring board [130] on which an inspection circuit [110] is provided via the second end of the pipe [90].

Regarding claim 6, **Howard et al.** discloses everything as claimed above in claims 1 and 5; in addition, **Howard et al.** shows (Figures 1-6) a first recess (where [80] is located in [120] as shown in Figures 5-6) is formed on the second

face (bottom side of [120]) of the block [114, 120]; the second insulative member [80] is a spacer formed with a second recess (where [90] is located in [80] as shown in Fig. 1) and a through hole [82] communicated with the second recess (where [90] is located in [80] as shown in Fig. 1); the spacer [80] is fitted into the first recess (where [80] is located in [120] as shown in Figures 5-6) and the second end of the pipe [90] is fitted into the second recess (where [90] is located in [80] as shown in Fig. 1), such that the second end of the pipe [90] is electrically connected to the wiring board [130] via the through hole [82] of the spacer [80], while the spacer [80] is held by the wiring board [130] within the first recess (where [80] is located in [120] as shown in Figures 5-6).

Regarding claim 7, **Howard et al.** discloses everything as claimed above in claim 1; in addition, **Howard et al.** shows (Figures 1-6) a wiring board [130], on which an inspection circuit [110] is provided, and to which a second end of the pipe [90] is electrically connected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Howard et al. (US Pat. 6,102,709)** in view of **Corwith (US Pat. 6,037,787)**.

Regarding claim 8, **Howard et al.** discloses everything as claimed above in claim 1.

Howard et al. fails to disclose wherein the contact probe further comprises a spring inserted in the conductive pipe to force the conductive plunger outwardly. However, **Corwith** discloses (Column 3, Lines 60-65) wherein the contact probe [354, 355] further comprises a spring inserted in the conductive pipe to force the conductive plunger outwardly.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of **Corwith** into the device of **Howard et al.** by including a spring inside the conductive pipe of the contact probe. The ordinary artisan would have been motivated to modify **Howard et al.** in the manner set forth above for the purpose of (Column 3, Lines 60-65) biasing the plungers outwardly from the barrels to make contact with the inspection device.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sweet et al. (US Pat. 6,784,679) shows (Figures 1-8) a differential coaxial contact array for high-density, high-speed signals comprising: a conductive block [118], a conductive pipe [216], plungers [124], and a spacer 120].

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roberto Velez whose telephone number is 571-

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272-8597. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on 571-272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RV

Roberto Velez
Patent Examiner


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PRIMARY EXAMINER
09/24/06